

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 is amended. The revision to claim 1 is supported, for example, at page 15, lines 3-9 in the specification. Claims 1, 4, and 7-12 are pending in the application, with claims 4, 10, and 11 being withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be maintained and reinstated once generic claim 1 is allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-9 and 12 stand rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,330,727 (Trocciola) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,887,365 (De Rycker). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a CO remover. The selective oxidative catalytic device includes a double-walled cylinder with an annular clearance formed therebetween for cooling liquid to pass through, and the cylinder is upstream of the gas blending unit. The cooling liquid effectively prevents excessively high temperatures in either of the upstream and downstream parts of the selective oxidative catalyst device, which allows for a high CO selectivity to be obtained.

Trocciola is directed to an apparatus for removing carbon monoxide from a gaseous medium. However, Trocciola does not teach or suggest that a selective oxidative catalytic device has a double-walled cylinder, with an annular clearance formed therebetween for cooling liquid to pass through. Therefore, the structure of Trocciola does not reduce the temperature in catalyst bed in the manner of the present invention, and, as a result, the selectivity of the CO remover is reduced.

De Rycker does not remedy the deficiencies of Trocciola. De Rycker is directed to a catalytic converter. However, De Rycker does not teach or suggest that a selective oxidative catalytic device has a double-walled cylinder, with an annular clearance formed therebetween for cooling liquid to pass through. Instead, De Rycker simply causes a gas that is to be treated to pass through a free space before entering the upper compartment of the reactor. See, for example, col. 3, lines 64-71. Thus, De Rycker does not teach or suggest the use of cooling liquid as recited in claim 1. When used with cooling liquid the present invention is much more effective in controlling temperatures than gaseous mediums. See, for example, page 16, lines 11-

18 of the present invention. Moreover, De Rycker does not teach or suggest the use of a cooling medium (i.e., such as a cooling liquid) that is different from the gas that is to be treated.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 7-9 and 12 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

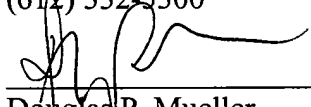
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and comments presented herein, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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